



GEN Jack Keane leads soldiers through a motivational set of post-run push-ups.

DA RUN

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BEING a soldier assigned to the Pentagon is different from being a soldier in other parts of the Army, and one of the ways it differs is physical-fitness training.

Pentagon soldiers are still responsible for taking and passing the Army Physical Fitness test twice a year. But they don't generally have an opportunity to do physical fitness training at the company or battalion level. Most of the time they train individually or as a section.

While this gets the job done, the esprit de corps and camaraderie built

by the rhythm of hundreds of feet hitting the ground in unison and hundreds of voices singing cadence is missing. It *was* missing, anyway, until GEN Jack Keane took over as the Army's vice chief of staff.

Keane, former commander of XVIII Airborne Corps, knows the value of a good unit run. That's why he instituted a quarterly four-mile run through Fort Myer, Va., and Arlington National Cemetery.

Hundreds of soldiers and dozens of Army civilians assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, turned out for the runs. The first run was held in October and the second in early

February. The third is scheduled for sometime this month.

"When we get together like this, we remind ourselves that we're doing something special," Keane told the assembled crowd after the first run. "We remember that we're here to support those soldiers who are serving all over the world, from Korea to the Balkans."

During the February run snow began to fall in thick flakes as the formation moved into Arlington National Cemetery. The formation ran without singing cadence, out of respect for those buried there. The scene took on a surreal, magical quality as the snow muffled the rhythmic sounds of the runners' footsteps.

"This run is a fitting tribute to the men and women who are laid to rest in Arlington," Keane said. "I'm sure that, if they could have seen you, they would have been pleased."

SPC Craig Amundson, an illustrator assigned to the Pentagon, said that he, too, felt the magic of the moment.

"It was really beautiful, with the sun just coming up and the snow coming down," Amundson said. "Running through the cemetery is a real honor. I feel it gives us a chance to pay our respects to those who came before us." □

(Below) Soldiers assigned to Army headquarters run through Arlington Cemetery, paying respects to those who went before them.

F.T. Eyre is a photographer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

